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Message Text

SECRET

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S E C R E T JIDDA 4709

NODIS/CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SA, US, XF
SUBJECT: PRINCE FAHD'S VIEWS ON ARAB/ISRAELI SETTLEMENT

1. PRIOR TO PROVIDING PRINCE FAHD WITH YOUR VIEWS ON PROBLEMS OF MOVING TOWARD GENERAL SETTLEMENT OF ISRAELI-ARAB ISSUES AS THEY EMERGED IN PARIS MEETING, I BELIEVED HE WAS OF OPINION THAT SUCH AN EFFORT SHOULD NOT BE ATTEMPTED UNTIL AFTER ELECTIONS. HE CORRECTED MY IMPRESSION, SAYING THAT HE AGREED THAT NOTHING WOULD BE PRACTICAL UNTIL REPUBLICANS NOMINATE THEIR CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY, BUT HE HOLDS THAT USG CAN AND SHOULD IMMEDIATELY AFTER THAT EVENT MOUNT AN EFFORT TO NEGOTIATE A GENERAL SETTLEMENT AND SHOULD PROVIDE ITS OWN VIEWS AS TO WHAT THAT MIGHT INCLUDE. FAHD BELIEVES THAT ALL PRINCIPAL FACTORS, MEANING ISRAELI, ARAB, U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL OPINION ARE READY FOR SUCH AN EFFORT AND THAT TO AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF THE U.S. ELECTIONS WOULD DIMINISH RATHER THAN ENHANCE THE PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS.

2. HE ADDS THAT THE AMERICAN PUBLIC, WHICH IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE EQUATION, IS NOW SUFFICIENTLY EDUCATED ABOUT ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUES, AND IS AWARE THAT LOGIC AND JUSTICE ARE NOT ALL ON ONE SIDE. AMERICANS ARE AWARE THAT OUR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE EXISTENCE AND SECURITY OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL IS CLEAR AND THAT WE CANNOT DIVEST OURSELVES OF THAT RESPONSIBILITY. AT SAME TIME HE BELIEVES THE AMERICAN PUBLIC
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IS MORE THAN TIRED OF POLITICAL ISOLATION, THE EXPENSE AND THE

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MANEUVERING WHICH HAVE KEPT THE PROBLEM IN THE FOREFRONT OF AMERICAN DOMESTIC POLITICS FOR SO LONG.

3. FAHD SAID THESE THINGS TO ME AND MORE. HIS HOPE THAT PRESIDENT FORD'S CAMPAIGN WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL WAS CLEARLY EXPRESSED AND, ONCE THE NOMINATING PROCESS ENDS, HE SEES THE INTERIM BETWEEN IT AND ELECTION DAY AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ACTION RATHER THAN STAGNATION. AMERICANS ADMIRE THE PRESIDENT'S POLITICAL COURAGE, HE DECLARED, AND WOULD ADMIRE HIM MORE FOR ACTION DESIGNED TO SETTLE THE PROBLEM. HE WOULD NOT LISTEN TO MY COMMENT THAN AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CHARACTER HE HAD IN MIND MIGHT EMBITTER THE CAMPAIGN. THE CAMPAIGN HAD ALREADY DEMONSTRATED THAT ZIONIST SUPPORT COULD NOT ACHIEVE A GREAT DEAL FOR THOSE CANDIDATES WHO HAD IT, HE DECLARED.

4. AS FOR LEBANON, HE APPRECIATED HEARING AGAIN THAT WE DO NOT FAVOR PARTITION. HE ADDED THAT WOULD NOT EVEN BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE IERAELIS, THOUGH THEY MIGHT THINK IT IS. HE OBVIOUSLY FEARS THE DISINTEGRATING AND GENERALLY DANGEROUS EFFECT OF THE PLO PRESENCE IN LEBANON AND SAID THAT RECENT EVENTS HAD MADE THE NECESSITY OF GETTING THEM BACK INTO THEIR HOMELAND, THE WEST BANK, EVEN CLEARER.

5. RETURNING TO THE SUBJECT OF A GENERAL SETTLEMENT OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEM, HE INSISTED THAT AN AMERICAN EFFORT TO ACHIEVE "PEACE AND TRANQUILITY IN RETURN FOR ARAB TERRITORIES TAKEN OVER BY ISRAEL IN 1967" WOULD EVOKE WIDESPREAD ARAB, ISLAMIC AND INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT.
PORTER

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